

Claims 1-29 (cancelled)

Claim 30 (new): A stable composition for absorbing oxygen and releasing carbon dioxide in a high moisture environment of a sealed container which contains oxygen and also contains carbon dioxide as a result of a carbon dioxide flush but which will not absorb oxygen and release carbon dioxide until after it has been placed in a high moisture container which is subsequently sealed comprising by weight iron-based component means in an amount of between about 15% and 60% for absorbing oxygen only after it has been placed into said high moisture container which has been subsequently sealed and is exposed to an electrolyte which has been provided with moisture from dry water-attracting means which receives said moisture from said sealed high moisture container but which will not absorb oxygen from the atmosphere before it has been placed into said high moisture container, carbon dioxide releasing component means in an amount of between about 8% and 50% for releasing carbon dioxide only after it has been placed into said high moisture container which has been subsequently sealed and which has been exposed to acidifying component means which has been provided with moisture from dry water-attracting means which receives said moisture from said sealed high moisture container but which will not release carbon dioxide before it has been placed into said high moisture container, solid electrolyte material means which will not produce an

electrolytic action until after it has been provided with moisture from dry water-attracting means which receives said moisture from said sealed high moisture container and causes said iron to absorb said oxygen but will not produce said electrolytic action before it has been placed in said container and provided with moisture from said dry water-attracting means which receives moisture from said high moisture environment of said container, dry acidifying component means for receiving moisture from dry water-attracting means which receives said moisture from said high moisture container and provides moisture to said dry acidifying component means for activating said carbon dioxide releasing component means to release carbon dioxide and which does not activate said carbon dioxide releasing component means before it has been placed into said high moisture container and provided with moisture from dry water-attracting means, and dry water-attracting means containing not more than about 3% of moisture for maintaining said stable composition of said iron-based component means and said solid electrolyte material means and said dry acidifying component means and said carbon dioxide releasing component means dry until after said stable composition has been placed into said high moisture environment of said container and sealed thereby stabilizing said composition against premature absorption of oxygen and premature generation of carbon dioxide until it adsorbs moisture from said high moisture environment of said sealed container and provides said moisture to both said solid

electrolyte material means and said dry acidifying component means to thereby activate said solid electrolyte material means to combine with said iron-based component means to absorb oxygen and to also activate said dry acidifying component means to combine with said carbon dioxide releasing component means to cause it to release carbon dioxide.

Claim 31 (new): A composition as set forth in claim 30 wherein said iron-based component means is present in an amount of between about 20% and 40% and wherein said carbon dioxide releasing component means is present in an amount of between about 10% and 39%.

Claim 32 (new): A composition as set forth in claim 31 wherein said dry water-attracting component means is present by weight in an amount of between about 4% and 30%.

Claim 33 (new): A composition as set forth in claim 30 wherein said iron-based component means is present in an amount of between about 25% and 35% and wherein said carbon dioxide releasing component means is present in an amount of between about 15% and 22%.

Claim 34 (new): A composition as set forth in claim 33 wherein said dry water-attracting component means is present by weight in an amount of between about 10% and 25%.

Claim 35 (new): A composition as set forth in claim 30 wherein said dry moisture-attracting component means is selected from the group consisting of silica gel, diatomaceous earth, perlite, zeolite, activated alumina, activated carbon, activated clay, molecular sieve, and cellulose.

Claim 36 (new): A composition as set forth in claim 35 wherein said iron-based component means is selected from the group consisting of particulate iron, iron II sulfate, iron II oxide, iron II carbide, and iron carbonyl.

Claim 37 (new): A composition as set forth in claim 30 wherein said iron-based component means is selected from the group consisting of particulate iron, iron II sulfate, iron II oxide, iron II carbide, and iron carbonyl.

Claim 38 (new): A composition as set forth in claim 30 wherein said dry water-attracting component means is present by weight in an amount of between about 1% and 70%.